

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-07

IGA-02 AID-05 /077 W

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O R 161529Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3982

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23748

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, FR

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF SELECTED MAAGS

REF: STATE 201994 (DTG: 132137Z AUG 76) NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY INTENDS TO INFORM QUAI IN LOW KEY
OF UPCOMING CHANGE IN STATUS OF MAAG AS RESULT OF
RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION. ACTION REQUESTED: WASH-
INGTON APPROVAL OF OUTLINE FOR FORMAL NOTIFICATION.
END SUMMARY.

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2. IT WILL BE OUR INTENTION TO DOWNPLAY THE CHANGE IN

ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS, WHILE ADHERING TO NEW LEGISLATION, SO AS TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY THAT GOF MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO RENEGOTIATE 1950 MUTUAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT (TIAS 2012, JANUARY 27, 1950) WHICH CONFERS ON MAAG DIPLOMATIC STATUS AND RESULTS IN GOF FINANCING OF APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT COSTS FOR MAAG INCLUDING LOCAL HIRE FRENCH PERSONNEL. IN ADDITION GOF PROVIDES LIAISON OFFICE CO-LOCATED WITH MAAG WHICH ASSISTS IN MONITORING END-USE OF MATERIALS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS AND GREATLY FACILITATES COOPERATION ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS CO-PRODUCTION/STANDARDIZATION OF ARMAMENTS. AS MAAG OFFICE WILL LOSE ALL US ENLISTED POSITIONS AS PART OF REORGANIZATION, ROLE OF GOF LIAISON OFFICE WILL BECOME EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.

3. CONTINUED OPERATION OF MAAG FUNCTIONS UNDER REVISED STATUS ENVISIONED UNDER NEW LEGISLATION IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTENANCE OF USG-GOF RELATIONSHIP ACROSS THE BOARD IN DEFENSE FIELDS. ADDRESSEES SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MAAG IS NOW A LEAN AND EFFICIENT PART OF US MISSION IN PARIS, WITH ONLY THREE US MILITARY COMMISSIONED OFFICER O-6 (COLONEL/CAPTAIN) POSITIONS, THREE NCO AND ONE US CIVILIAN SECRETARY POSITION. WITH IMPENDING LOSS OF THREE ENLISTED POSITIONS, IT WILL MEET THE INTENT OF THE NEW LEGISLATION.

4. NAME OF NEW ORGANIZATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO CALLING NEW ELEMENT "USEUCOM LIAISON OFFICE." THIS TITLE WILL CREATE PROBLEMS WITH THE FRENCH IN THAT IT IMPLIES A POSSIBLE COMMAND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND FRENCH FORCES WHICH DOES NOT EXIST. GIVEN FRENCH WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO INTEGRATED COMMAND STRUCTURE AND CONTINUING POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE, SUCH A TITLE SHOULD BE AVOIDED. WE RECOMMEND THAT TITLE BE CHANGED TO "U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE, FRANCE" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. SUCH A TITLE WOULD IN NO WAY CHANGE THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD USEUCOM WHICH THE NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) WILL OUTLINE FOR THE NEW ORGANIZATION.

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5. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT PLAN FOR PROPOSED NEW STATUS OF MAAG AS DEVELOPED BY JCS AND/OR USCINCEUR BE COMMUNICATED TO PARIS FOR AMBASSADORIAL APPROVAL AND TO INSURE THAT NEW ORGANIZATION WILL FIT SMOOTHLY INTO ONGOING USG-GOF DEFENSE RELATIONS.

6. EMBASSY WILL REPORT NOTIFICATION AND REACTION

RECEIVED. RE PARA 5 OF REFTTEL EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FOLLOW-
ING POINTS FOR INCORPORATION IN FORMAL WRITTEN NOTIFICA-
TION OF THIS ACTION TO GOF:

(A) WE PROPOSE TO USE AIDE-MEMOIRE DELIVERED BY
POL/MIL OFFICER TO APPROPRIATE LEVEL QUAI OFFICIAL.
WE BELIEVE A FORMAL NOTE WOULD EXAGGERATE IMPORT

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IGA-02 AID-05 /077 W

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O R 161529Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3983

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23748

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OF THE CHANGE AND POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTE TO THOUGHT
IN GOF THAT 1950 AGREEMENT SHOULD BE REVISED.

(B) IN THE AIDE-MEMOIRE WE WOULD REFER TO ARTICLE VI OF THE 1950 AGREEMENT WHICH IN PARA 2 STATES THAT "EACH GOVERNMENT AGREES TO RECEIVE PERSONNEL OF THE OTHER GOVERNMENT WHO WILL DISCHARGE . . . RESPONSIBILITIES . . . UNDER THIS AGREEMENT . . . SUCH PERSONNEL . . . WILL . . . OPERATE AS A PART OF THE EMBASSY UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION . . ." WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT
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LEGISLATION, THE OFFICE CARRYING OUT THE FUNCTIONS FORESEEN IN THE 1950 AGREEMENT WILL NO LONGER BE CALLED A MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP (MAAG) BUT WILL RECEIVE A NEW TITLE. WE WILL ADD THAT THE OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO BE STAFFED, AS IT NOW IS, BY THREE U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS (COLONEL/ CAPTAIN) AND ONE U.S. CIVILIAN SECRETARY.

(C) WE WILL ALSO POINT OUT THAT CURRENT MAAG OFFICE OPERATES AS PART OF THE EMBASSY UNDER THE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE CHIEF OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VI AND THAT RE-DESIGNATED OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THE SAME RESPONSIBILITIES FORESEEN IN THE 1950 AGREEMENT, JUST AS THE FRENCH "MISSION TECHNIQUE DE L'ARMAMENT" (MTA) DOES IN WASHINGTON.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON APPROVAL FOR COMMUNICATING TO GOF THE FORMAL NOTIFICATION AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

8. WE ALSO WISH TO REQUEST LOW-KEY TREATMENT FOR ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRANSITION OF MAAG FRANCE TO NEW DESIGNATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOTH CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC MUST BE INFORMED OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION. AS SUCH THE TRANSITION IN PARIS MUST BE PART OF ANY REPORT OR ACCOUNTING OF COMPLIANCE. HOWEVER WE STRONGLY URGE AGAINST ANY SPECIFIC, SINGLE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON MAAG FRANCE EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR BY THE UNIFIED COMMAND.
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